

Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2017, 12:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 925 South Creyts Rd., Lansing, MI 48917

Present: Asim Alavi, Nasim Ansari, Anthony Chang, Connie Dang, Sharon Dow, Lisa Gray, Jamie Hsu, Roland Hwang, Grace Lee, Toshiki Masaki, Mahima Mahadevan, Kaushik Nag, Ryan Rosario, Jenny Wang, and Bing Goei, Ex-officio

By phone: David Long

Staff: Justine Foy, Commission Liaison and Denise Yee Grim, Outreach Coordinator

Guest: Noel Garcia and Martha Gonzalez-Cortes, HLCOM, Carol Viventi, MDCR, and Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood

Unable to attend: Scott T. Ayotte, Soraya Kim, Connie Dang, Jin-Kyu Koh, David Long and Joe Tasma

I. Call to Order and Introduction of Agenda:

Chair Jamie Hsu called the regular meeting of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 12:37 PM on September 14, 2017. Jamie stated that after the commission meeting we will join the ethnic commissions reception with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. He welcomed Carol Viventi, Deputy Director of MDCR, and Noel Garcia, Chair of HLCOM.

Jamie reiterated from the June commission meeting, the expectation of the commissioners is to attend the commission meetings, participate in SIG's activities actively and as a minimum to read all MAPAAC related emails and meeting minutes, so we can move forward in all of our activities instead of revisiting the discussions and the decisions that were made in previous meetings.

II. Approval of June 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Denise Yee Grim spoke on the behalf of Toshiki Masaki, MAPAAC's Secretary, and submitted the draft June 10, 2017 meeting minutes for approval. Asim Alavi motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Roland Hwang seconded. Motion passed.

III. Comments of MAPAAC's Activities:

Jamie shared the suggestions from the APA Leaders who attended our planning meeting and the feedback we have created synergy among each other and they are collaborating on activities for the APA community at large. They would like to reach out to the municipalities, cities and community around us.

Jamie reviewed the initiatives that MAPAAC has done and our focuses of our past annual leaders' forum & appreciation dinners; three years ago, we shared what MAPAAC is all about and what we do. We hosted town hall meetings so we have an understanding of what we can do together. Two years ago, we began to bring the APA leaders together, so we can work with them. This year's focus for the leaders' forum and appreciation dinner will be to invite the municipality leaders in addition to the state department leaders, and APA leaders. We received support from the state agencies, MONA, LARA, MDHHS, MDCR, etc..., but we would like the support and develop relationships with the cities and townships where APA community resides. He asked the commissioners to reach out to their local governments to attend the dinner as your guests.

He acknowledged the leadership of MONA and SIG 4 for coordinating the New American Appreciation Gala and thanked the commissioners for their assistance in inviting APA leaders and honorary and guest to the gala and asked the commissioners to reserve the date of October 12th.

New initiative for 2018, jointly do local (municipality) event in addition to our MAPAAC's events and APA community event.

IV. 2017 SIG's Initiatives Report:

SIG 1: Mahima Mahadevan shared what the Legislative/Advocacy Committee (LAC) meeting held on September 12th and provided an update on the discussion listed below:

HB4105 and HB4334- Anti-Sanctuary policy bills, which local police officers will have the additional responsibility to act as immigration agents, and take that extended steps for asking for status of citizens (racial-profiling) and coordinate with ICE, to check their status that may lead to deportation or other federal actions. The bills are in committee. The Hispanic/Latino commission and the Middle Eastern commission has drafted letters to oppose the bills and to prepare to act on the bills. The next step for LAC is to determine how to publicize the letters. Jamie commented that the commission has approved a statement in support of the letters.

HB4619 is to facilitate access to state services by individuals with limited English proficiency and to establish a process for submitting complaints and obtaining remedies for lack of equal language access. The bill is in the Governor's operation committee and LAC are preparing a joint letter to take a position on the proposed bill. Bing Goei commented that the joint letter will provide the Governor the importance of language access for new Americans in the state of Michigan. Roland commented that their states with English plus law, which English is the primary language that Michigan legislators may consider.

Bing spoke on the HB4794/4795 regarding the driver's licenses and state IDs that is having an impact in the agriculture economy and is supported by the farmer's bureau association. It is a real need for individuals who do not have the proper documentation to drive to their jobs in the agriculture economy.

Mahima commented that it is important to provide personal stories to help in support of the bills and asked the commissioners to provide the names of people who may like to share their stories.

Jamie stated that we are monitoring the bills and if we would like to form a decision, we must have a formal discussion as an agenda item for the commission.

Jamie posed a question how do we communicate this information and educate the APA community with legislation that may impact them. He suggested doing this by newsletter or through town hall meetings, which SIG 1 and SIG 2 can work together in informing the community.

SIG 2:

Grace Lee talked about SIG 2's three initiatives are: 1. Navigating the American System, business and social etiquette and culture – two events in 2017; 2. Continue our open forums on family needs: elderly, health care, bullying; 3. Addressing the financial challenges for community centers and fundraising/grants and loans for small businesses. On June 21st, they hosted a capacity building and fund development for non-profits workshop, which we had 60 attendees and our presenters were from an organization called NEW and the Community Foundation of SE-MI. They are planning to repeat this workshop in the West Michigan in 2018.

On November 18th, they will host the second open education forum with the Vietnamese community leaders and presenters from the state department agencies. The location will be determined by the Vietnamese American Association of MI. Jamie suggested to change the name of the event to MAPAAC's Open House.

SIG 3:

Roland Hwang shared a flyer of the intergenerational forum on September 20th to address the international and foreign student issue of social integration and support services for student's family relating to social isolation. The forum will be held at the Ann Arbor District Library - Westgate Branch.

Roland shared the 2018 dates of the Korematsu remembrance events are scheduled on Jan. 30th, 8:00 AM at Salem H.S. in Plymouth and Feb. 2nd at Edsel Ford H.S in Dearborn. Jamie commented that the Korematsu events have impacted the young students club by organized the event in their schools and engaged in the conversations. They become energized and encouraged to speak up.

Connie echoed the success of the Korematsu events and in Grand Rapids, the community came out and there were grandparents who were very pleased to see that there is recognize an Asian activist and hero in the community. She felt that this is a good beginning for the community.

SIG 4:

Denise spoke on behalf of Joe Tasma, SIG 4 leader, and spoke on the second Leaders' Forum & Appreciation Dinner. The date is September 21st at the Livonia Marriott hotel, 6:00 PM– 8:30 PM. She requested the commissioners to RSVP with their 5 guest's names and dinner entrees. Speakers include: Dr. Arbulu as the keynote speaker, welcome video by the Lt. Governor, Jamie will give the State of APAs in Michigan. We invited representatives from municipalities include mayors and city officials, and we are making the effort in inviting the Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. We received a positive respond from the APA community organizations.

Connie bought up the challenge for West Michigan community organizations of a 2 ½ hour drive and having this event on a weekday night. We should keep this thought for consideration for planning future events.

Jamie commented for 2018 that we should do reverse town hall meetings in the west side of the state with a smaller group. Ryan suggested having two events in one day. Denise asked the West Michigan commissioners to think about having events in their communities.

Bing Goei and Justine Foy gave an update on the October 12th New Americans Appreciation Gala planning, sponsorship and press release. MAPAAC's goal was to sponsor 15 tables and as to date, we have sold 14 tables and ask the commissioners for assistance in providing a company or name to invite to reach our goal. It is up to the host of their table to invite public officials and guests. Denise announced the two honorable mentions: APACC and Minnie Morey from the West MI Asian American Association. The two Governor's New American Leadership Awardees were Ron Shahani from Acro Service Corp. and Chain Sandhu from NYX, Inc.

Jamie thanked SIG 4 for the planning and the commissioners for their support and contributions.

V. MONA Report:

Bing Goei gave an explanation for the reason why we are having a joint ethnic commission meeting/reception following the commission meeting. He encouraged the commissioners to exchange business cards and network with the other ethnic commissioners. Each Commission Chairs will present the history of the commission, the vision, what the commission have done in the past and what is planned for the future. The Lt. Governor Calley will be making remarks after the three ethnic commission presentations.

Bing continued to share the conversation of the MONA's Ethnic Cabinet Meeting on August 22nd at Eastern Market in Detroit. He highlight the programs that Eastern Market is doing with underserved community in SE-Michigan and their kitchen incubators for entrepreneurs. Denise provided the Eastern Market 2025 strategy executive summary in the commissioner's folder for their review.

He invited the commissioners to the Global Michigan Meeting on September 26th at Ann Arbor Sparks Central office. John Austin and Steve Tobocman will talk about their recently released report "*Michigan: We Are All Migrants Here*," which talks about the economic impact on Michigan from the changing immigration policies.

MONA has hired another staff person in Michigan International Talent Solutions (MITS). Bing is working on a program for non-degree refugees with finding meaningful employment. Next week, MONA meeting with a task force to address the agricultural challenges that we face in labor and the H-1B visa concerns.

VI. Budget Update and 2018 Draft Budget:

Ryan Rosario, Trustee, reviewed the 2017 budget as of August 31st and answer questions regarding our expenditures and budget allocation. The community outreach & sponsorships are approved by the executive committee (EC) besides the SIG 1- 4 initiatives. There is a correction of the LARA Administration Costs and Fees from \$1,400.00 to \$10,500.00 for support of LARA's personnel for the commission per fiscal year. The sponsorship chart is the combination of SIG's sponsorships and other sponsorships approved by EC.

He reminded the commissioners that the last day for invoices and reimbursement is September 25th for the closing of the fiscal year ending on September 30th.

The sponsorship requirements will require additional information and a recap of the results of their events, so we can keep track of the sponsorship requests and results.

The 2018 budget has been approved to \$137,400.00.

Jamie's comments on budget:

1. Denise's contract is a bargain and we appreciate her diligence and hard work for MAPAAC meetings and events.
2. Since the government is giving us more money every year, he sense that they are impressed by our work and they may want to see more. MAPAAC is not limited by money, but limited by time; we are limited by the commissioners' time. We need to find a way to minimize the commissioner's time and in the same time work more efficiently to utilize the money more effectively to benefit the APAs and the Michigan government.
3. With Jamie's participation and observations in APA organization's advisory meetings, he noticed that there is competition among APA organizations and they are doing the same activities. He suggested to the commissioners that we should use the sponsorship money to encourage people to collaborate. Instead of being reactive in their sponsorship requests and asking them to partner with organizations, MAPAAC create some initiative events and ask five organizations if they would like to work with us. This way, we can use the money more effectively and encourage them to work together. Example: We would like to work with a city (Ann Arbor) to talk about APAs issues/concerns and ask the organizations to provide the manpower of coordinating the event and MAPAAC will sponsor the entire event.

Next month, Jamie would like to sit down with the executive committee to draft a proposal for the commissioners' approval. The goal is to have the APA organizations work together, to use the money more effectively and have a major impact. We will still respond to individual sponsorship request, but we will have our initiative for events.

VII. Commissioner Terms and Reapplying:

Jamie informed the commissioners that six commissioners terms will be up. Some may be eligible for reapplying for a second term. The state is ridge with two term limit. He asked the commissioners if they know of qualified persons to encourage him/her to apply. Provide the names and contact information. The criteria are the four C's: Competence (in their profession), Commitment (to help, attend commission meetings, events and participate in the SIGs), Connections (need to know the leaders of their ethnic group and local organizations), and Composition (geographic coverage, professions, and ethnic background). Jamie is working with the Governor's appointment office to encourage them to make their selection as soon as possible.

Proposed 2018 Executive Committee:

Jamie explained that the executive committee term is one year and it will end on October 30th and extendable to another year. He would like to invite the current SIG leaders to become the 2018 executive committee, because they are familiar of how MAPAAC works, who are Mahima, Grace and Joe. The three of them to be consider being the executive committee and this will have continuity since they know the SIGs and then this will provide the SIGs to select their new SIG leaders. This will provide a continual transition and keep the momentum.

VII. Annual Report Preparation:

Jamie spoke on behalf of Soraya Kim Vice-chair, and asked the SIG leaders to submit their portion of the annual report for 2017. He heard that LARA, MDCR, and legislators used our annual report for budget allocation. Denise will provide the summary for SIG 2-4 and email a template for the leaders to submit their report in November. The draft annual report will be reviewed and approved at the December commission meeting and it will be submitted in January, 2018.

VIII. Administrator's Update:

Denise reiterated the necessary information for the Leaders' Forum and Appreciation Dinner, New Americans Appreciation Gala, and submission of their TEVs.

IX. December Commission Meeting:

- Friday, Dec. 8th, 9 AM – 12 PM at the Novi Public Library. Jamie commented that the retiring commissions to attend this meeting.

X. New Business:

Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood addressed the commissioners by encouraging the voice of MAPAAC to continue and emphasized the importance of our voice and play the role of initiating and doing things. There is also a real role for individuals and as a group to engage in a reactive way in broader and wider issues that are happening in our country and in our state. MAPAAC as a successful track record and have a lot of respect. He encouraged us to think broadly not just for the APA community, but the health and welfare of the state of Michigan. There is a role that we can play with our voice. Jamie thanked Senator Hopgood for his advices and sponsorship over all these years. We appreciate his support.

XI. No Public Comments:

XII. Announcements:

Toshiki shared his trip to Japan where he attended the Michigan and Shiga Sister State reception ceremony with Governor Snyder. There will be a similar ceremony in Michigan in 2018.

Kaushik Nag shared his involvement about the environmental justice 21 member working group who were appointed by Governor Snyder in response to the Flint water crisis. They review previous working group projects, research and looked at other state's best practices of environmental justice. They had three listening sessions in the state who were impacted by environmental issues and came back with recommendations. They are now at a point to make some policy recommendations to the Governor and to the legislators. He asked the commissioners to share any information or people who would like an environmental issues in the community they represent to share with him and he will represent MAPAAC to the group.

Nasim Ansari announced that he is running to mayor of Portage.

Lisa Gray announced there will be another Guangdong Dinner Gala with the state of Michigan in 2018 and she thanked MAPAAC for their support in 2017 event. She is the liaison for the Consul General of China in Michigan.

Roland Hwang announced ACA event, *Breaking Through the Cultural Barriers*, on October 14th at Noon at the Chinese Community Center. Jamie commented that this is a type of event for 2018.

Sharon Dow announced that the Detroit Institute of Arts is opening a Japanese Gallery in November 2017.

Jenny Wang mentioned that Amazon is opening a second headquarter and it's an exciting opportunity for Michigan. What role do MAPAAC play in bringing company into Michigan? Jamie commented that most businesses ask more boarder questions like infrastructure. What we can as help in the recruiting people to see what is available for their lifestyle in Michigan and we can assist after the company is established. Anthony Chang mentioned that we can provide information as a part of the package of recruitment for the state.

Anthony Chang mentioned that MAPAAC should keep track of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, activities.

XIII. Adjournment:

Roland Hwang motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Anthony Chang.
Motion passed.

The meeting concluded at 3:10 PM

Minutes prepared by: Denise Yee Grim, November 25, 2017
Minutes approved on December 1, 2017

Grace Lee, Secretary